THE CALIFORNIA-LAUREL BORER, *ROSALIA FUNEBRIS* MOTS.

(Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

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A few days ago I received about 150 specimens of this rather rare and beautiful beetle from F. H. Wymore who collected them in and about a commercial paint shop at Ukiah, California, during the summer of 1939. This is no doubt the most remarkable feat in the collection of this beetle ever noted and the circumstances involved are worthy of recording. For this purpose Mr. Wymore has kindly furnished the following information which I am pleased to quote with slight changes.

"I am sorry I have no definite data at hand relative to just when the beetles were collected. However, as near as I can recollect they were taken during a hot spell the latter part of July and the first part of August, 1939. This idea correlates with temperature records for the period of July 20 to August 6 inclusive. During the six days from July 20-25 inclusive the temperature averaged 104.83° F. with a range of 101° F. to 108° F. Then again from July 31 to August 6 (7 days) the average temperature was 101.57° F. with a range of 100° F. to 106° F. The five days between the hotter periods had an average of 94.4° F. with a range of 92° F. to 97° F. The minimum temperature during this period of 18 days averaged 53.05° F. with a range of 48° F. to 58° F.

"The principal flight of the beetles, of course, was in the heat of the day with a few active about the lights during the warmer evenings. In regard to the beetles showing preferences to materials in the paint shop there was a decided concentration of them in the corner of the shop where the paint vapors were most noticeable and the odor of amylacetate was strongest. In this environment the beetles scampered about in a rather excited manner and copulation was quite common. Once the beetles moved 25-50 feet beyond the area of concentrated paint vapors (which were very strong during this hot period) they became quiet and remained in a given location for periods of a few minutes to one or two hours depending upon the temperature and concentration of the light in the spot in which they came to rest. In some instances the beetles missed the paint shop

entirely, as they flew in, and alighted on buildings across the street and even halfway down the block.

"As to where these beetles emerged from, your guess is as good as mine. I thought at first they might be coming from a stump pile, consisting of several cords of stumps of various kinds of trees for fireplace use directly across the street from the paint shop. I made several observations about the stumps at various times of the day but was never able to find a single beetle in this environment.

"I had never before seen so many of these more or less rare beetles in all my entomological experiences and have observed only an occasional beetle in this locality since that year." (Ukiah, California, March 10, 1943.)

Ukiah is located in the Russian River Valley in the midst of the Coast Range Mountains. In this region there are dense and extensive growths of all the known host plants of this beetle including the California laurel, *Umbellularia californica* Nutt., Oregon ash, *Fraxinus oregona* Nutt., coast live oak, *Quercus agrifolia* Nee., California black oak, *Quercus kelloggii* Newb., the arroyo willow, *Salix lasiolepis* Benth., and the rarer lowland fir, *Abies grandis* Lindl.

This beetle has always been considered a prize by amateur and experienced collectors alike, and large series are rare in collections. I well remember my first specimen—a large female resting with legs and antennae extended on the green moss-covered trunk of a large California laurel tree at Camp Grant near Dyerville, Humboldt County, California, in 1907. Since then I have taken only one other living specimen.

Hibernation of Scaphinotus coloradensis Van Dyke

I have several times discovered this species hibernating in moderately damp regions along stream beds near the eastern foothills of the Colorado Rockies. One February, along the Platte River near Littleton, nine specimens were found in two rotten cottonwood logs. These had deteriorated to the soft stage, and in one or two cases the cychrids had worked themselves some six or eight inches into the punky material. Only one or two specimens were ever located during their more active summer period.—Robert W. L. Potts.